

# Alternative Spring Break: Building Skills in Rural Youth and OSU Students Simultaneously

## Purpose

OSU Extension Vinton County collaborates with the Buck-I-Serv program to deliver college experiences to rural youth. Extension community engagement and outreach can be strengthened by developing relationships and using college connections for youth education. Ohio's Appalachian region has historically faced severe economic challenges including many students who are first-generation college students from small, rural communities. First-generation students often face challenges adjusting to college life, because their family lacks "what to expect" at college experiences.

## Impact

OSU Students educate over 1,400 youth (grades 3-11) each year during their week-long visit and the Alternative Spring Break program is included in the district's Career Advising Plan for all students.

86% of youth served indicated on the post-test an increase in knowledge about post-secondary options.

91% indicate knowing someone after the visit that attended college and can answer their questions about college.

**Ohio State Colleges/Units Involved**  
Office of Student Life Buck-I-Serv program  
OSU Extension - Vinton County

**Community Partners Involved**  
Vinton County Local Schools  
Vinton County Marketing Director  
Vinton County Extension Advisory Committee  
Lake Hope State Park



## How you can get involved:

- Support efforts of Buck-I-Serv trips by promoting opportunities to students
- Encourage departments/programs to replicate program in other counties
- Provide educational resources for students to use while educating rural youth about post-secondary opportunities

## To get involved, contact:

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